



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION

**Address:**

18-20 Trinity Street  
Room 202  
Hartford, CT 06106  
**Tel:** 860-240-0080  
**Fax:** 860-240-0315  
**Email:** [apaac@cga.ct.gov](mailto:apaac@cga.ct.gov)  
**Website:**  
<http://ctapaac.com>

**Chair**

Trung Le

**Vice-Chair**

Sylvia Ho, Esq.

**Secretary**

Uswah Khan

**Treasurer**

Alan Tan

**Commissioners**

Arlene Avery

Theodore Feng

Theodore Hsu

George Mathanool

M. Angela Rola

Arvind Shaw

An-Ming Truxes

**Executive Director**

Mui Mui Hin-McCormick

**Legislative Analyst**

Alok Bhatt

Dear Senator Winfield, Representative Butler, and esteemed members of the Housing Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly:

My name is Alok Bhatt. I serve as Legislative Analyst for the Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission (APAAC).

Considering the importance of quality, up-to-date data to assess and address housing needs in the State of Connecticut, APAAC writes in strong support of SB 156: An Act Concerning the Data Collection and Analysis of Affordable Housing.

Despite the model minority myth, which portrays APA communities as homogenous and over-achieving, our Commission represents many who experience difficulty finding affordable housing. New immigrants and refugees in particular face trouble accessing information and other resources on affordable housing. Language and culture barriers, as well as gaps in outreach, compound these issues.

APAAC appreciates the inclusion of race and ethnicity data on the annual report on affirmative marketing. We recommend that race data include the "Asian or Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander" category, and that ethnicity data dis-aggregate groups in accordance with the 2010 US Census. The information collected and reported may suggest gaps in affordable housing. These gaps may necessitate further outreach to APA communities, which requires translation of documents, developing relationships with community leaders, and targeted marketing material.

Better access to affordable housing may also help mitigate the impact of home lending disparities. According to Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council (FFIEC) data, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders face a 55.4% loan denial rights in the Stamford-Norwalk metropolitan statistical area; the highest among all racial groups counted for these data<sup>1</sup>. This statistic ultimately reinforces the need for additional, perhaps community-targeted education related to homes, housing, and lending.

APAAC remains ready to assist with any outreach and education to enable represent equal access to affordable housing for APA communities.

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.norwalkct.org/DocumentCenter/View/3586>



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## *ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION*



I thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter. We hope to see this important legislation passed, and reiterate the importance of the recommendations entailed herein.

Sincerely,

Alok Bhatt

*18-20 Trinity Street, Hartford, CT 06106  
Tel. (860) 240-0080, Fax (860) 240-0315  
E-Mail: [apaac@cga.ct.gov](mailto:apaac@cga.ct.gov)  
Web Site – <http://ctapaac.com/>*